

From: jim (sparky)
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/11/01 1:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I believe the government should have stayed out of Microsoft's business all along. The original suit was ill conceived. A liberal Clinton Administration filed the suit for the benefit of a few companies that could not compete in the free enterprise marketplace.

There should have been nothing more than a mandated separation of the Windows operating system and browser software.

I find it extremely interesting that the settlement requires Microsoft to do the very thing for which the original suit was filled. That is give away free software. Now, with this settlement, Microsoft will be installing their product line in schools for millions of future generations of customers to use. What started because Microsoft imbedded their Internet browser software into their Windows operating system has become a government forced sponsorship and usage of their products.

Microsoft produces and markets many fine products. I use many of them both at a business and personal level. However, I feel that because of the terms of the Federal settlement, that long term computer software technology will only be slowed by lack of active competition. Millions of young adults will enter the workforce knowing only the use of their products. Because of this public schooled-trained labor pool business will have little choice but to buy and use the same products.

The true long-term winners in this settlement will not be the workforce of America but rather Microsoft and professional class action litigators like Stan Chesley. From a strictly political viewpoint I understand your actions. I just wish it could be otherwise.

While I will not say that Microsoft is getting some kind of sweetheart deal, I must wonder why they are spending so much

money to sell the settlement.

Please do nothing that adds to the monetary cost of this settlement. There is no such thing as a free lunch. The consumer will be the final bill payer for any settlement. It will become a cost of doing business and the next generation of products will reflect those costs.

Sincerely,

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